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Built Environment and Development Studies**

**Research Topic:**

**Assessing the participation of youth in the delivery of low cost housing: A  
case study of uMlazi sections B and G.**

**By**

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**This dissertation is submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the requirements towards  
the degree of Master of Housing to the School of Built Environment and  
Development Studies.**

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## Declaration

I, Xolani Emmanuel Phohlo hereby declare that this dissertation is my own unaided work, except where otherwise acknowledged in the text, and it has not been submitted in whole or part for any examination or degree at any University.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Acknowledgement

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## **Dedication**

This Housing Master's dissertation is dedicated to my parents Mr. M Mkhize and N.C Phohlo for their sacrifices, and their undying support throughout my life as a student.

## **Abstract**

South Africa is experiencing a high rate of youth unemployment (24%) compared to its counter parts. This is due to a variety of reasons like the legacy of the apartheid inequality, poor education, poverty and slow economic growth. The majority of the unemployed are mainly young people between the ages of 18 to 35. Worse, some of the unemployed youth are graduates who find it difficult to secure employment opportunities with the qualifications that they have obtained.

One of the objectives of the housing policy is to use the delivery of low cost housing as one of mechanisms to create job opportunities more especially for the youth. The key question of the study looked at the impact of the participation of youth in the delivery of low cost housing at uMlazi sections B and G. The study used qualitative method of data collection. The study found that young people of uMlazi sections B and G did participate in the delivery of low cost housing.

The study recommends that the South African government should review the current preferential policies to include youth as a specific target for employment and encourage employment agencies in other sectors outside built environment to implement this provision.

The study concluded that the government has played a significant role in ensuring the involvement of youth in service delivery; but the study also calls for more commitment from the side of local government and political will especially on eThekweni municipality to continue ensuring the increase on the number of young people that take part in the delivery of housing.

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ANC	African National Congress
AU	African Union
BNG	Breaking New Ground
CBD	Central Business District
DoHS	Department of Human Settlements
DPL	Department of Provincial Local Government
IFP	Inkatha Freedom Party
NHBRC	National Home Builders Registration Council
NUMSA	National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa
NYC	National Youth Commission
UYF	Umsobomvu Youth Fund
NYP	National Youth Policy
NYSP	National Youth Services Programme
NYDPF	National Youth Development Policy Framework
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SALDRU	Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit
SYPP	Seattle Young People's Project
SYPP	Seattle Young People's Project

UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
YHP	Youth in Housing Programme

## **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **1.1 Introduction**

South Africa's new democratic government inherited a huge housing backlog of roughly 1.3 million housing units and high rate of unemployment when it came to power in 1994 (Goebel, 2007; Knight, 2001). Section 9 of the Housing Act of the republic of South Africa (Act 107 of 1997) aims to guarantee that municipalities provide access to adequate housing on a progressive basis. Given the high rate of youth unemployment, it is a noble reason that youth participation becomes part of the upgrading of informal settlements process (Bhengu, 2013). Hence, the community, especially the youth as the future of the country, should be integrated in the development processes that are taking place in the country.

According to Knight (2001), when the new democratic government came to power in 1994 it became aware of the challenges that were related to the various housing needs of its population. Henceforth, as a reaction to the issue of constrained assets, the government needed to think of distinctive methodologies and techniques that took into account the activation and tackling of all assets endeavors and group activities, private sector and all other role-players. The South African Constitution (1996), the Housing White Paper (1994), the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) (1996) and the Breaking New Ground (BNG) (2004) arrangements all promoted a multi-partner way to deal with housing conveyance in South Africa. Williams (2006), contends that in the Constitution the citizens were considered a vital partner and therefore made provision for community participation.

According to Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) (2010), youth unemployment is a problem in South Africa. Unemployment concerns young people and is a national problem. Among other challenges in addressing this problem is the shortage of skills, and for a portion of youth who are willing to be equipped with skills there is a lack of financial muscle to be able to realize that dream. Youth in South Africa faces a challenge in finding employment; this is because even educated young people

who do not have work experience find it hard to penetrate the workforce. Youth unemployment poses a formidable policy challenge for South Africa.

Mayer et al. (2011) argue that in the first quarter of 2015, the rate of unemployment increased drastically to 26.40 percent from 24.30 percent the year before. Furthermore Mayer et al. (2011) add that unemployed youth between the ages of 14 and 35 years, was estimated to be 72% in the year 2010. After 21 years of democracy, South Africa has failed to create enough employment opportunities that will absorb the ever-growing number of young people and as a result, this has led to an increase in poverty and inequality levels among the youth.

The South African government took a bold step in responding to the challenges of unemployed youth in South Africa. It introduced a strategic programme which was known as Youth Brigades; this programme introduced the principles of involvement and volunteerism to the youth of South Africa with regards to housing delivery and to mobilize and provide young people between the ages 18 and 40 years with relevant mentorship and training in order to make a positive impact on youth employment in the country.

The Youth brigades programme was to be used as a strong tool in order to deepen the fight against youth unemployment through various youth empowerment programmes in Human Settlements. For example recruiting and training about 10,000 youth Brigades within this current term of Government (2014-2019) – 2,000 recruits each year; youth will be trained as Human Settlements development partners in all catalytic projects which are implemented by various partners involved in the programme implementation; all developers who are awarded contracts on Mega and catalytic projects until 2019 will absorb a number of trained brigades for the duration of the project and lastly the Youth Brigades will negotiate for the allocation of 20% BNG serviced sites to the youth who are on the data base of each municipality in order for them to build their own houses (Dept. of Human Settlements, 2014).

Furthermore through the Municipal Structures Act the municipal officials, for example mayors, must prepare a report on the participation of community organizations in

developments in the municipality and also ensure that people's views are taken into consideration.

There is a serious need by the government to quickly address the barriers of youth participation. Should this be addressed adequately, sustainable human settlements would be created and the youth would be empowered in terms of making informed decisions and the state would be able to recover the cost of upgrading the settlements because people will pay for the services that are provided by the local government. Theron (2005) feels that youth participation is a process and in that process the youth is given a say and choice in the development that is intended to benefit them. Furthermore, Theron; (2005) feels youth participation has a lot to do with human growth, as through participation, the youth can drive their own development process (Theron, 2005b:121).

This study highlights some aspects of youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing. The paper goes on to establish the extent and level of success of youth participation in sections B and G uMlazi housing projects with the aim of making recommendations to improve the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing in South Africa. Youth participation does not only mean youth development but also promotion of people to be key development players; for example there must be a shift from youth taking a passive position to an active role in ensuring sustainable and responsive communities. The youth roles is discussed in the paper in order to establish whether or not youth participation was effective in sections B and G uMlazi housing projects.

## **1.2 RESEARCH PROBLEM**

To a certain extent formal housing that is provided through the informal settlements upgrading programme does not solve the issue of poverty and responds to the needs of the beneficiaries. The South African government has tried and is still building houses for people. Due to high land costs, the majority of those houses is far from the employment

areas and has no municipal services for improving the living standard of the people, but this can be justified by the level of community participation in the housing developments. This study assesses how youth participation can ensure sustainable and responsive human settlements, which in turn will lead to satisfaction to beneficiaries.

According to NUMSA 2014 bulletin, youth unemployment is amongst the highest in the world including South Africa. This is the biggest economic challenge facing the South African youth at present. Due to youth unemployment the youth has become highly frustrated and this has led to social issues such as division of class, race/ethnic groups and raises concerns of crime and violence, which in-turn has limited the realisation of an ideal socially sustainable settlement (Levy, 2009).

There has been a lot of studies on community participation, particularly that of the youth in the low cost housing delivery since the democratic dispensation that ushered government subsidized housing projects, as such in an attempt to fill in the dearth of literature and gap in research, along those important aspects the work investigates the forms/levels/nature of youth participation in low cost housing delivery.

#### **1.4 STUDY OBJECTIVES**

- 1.4.1 To review the policy and legislation framework on community participation in low cost housing delivery
- 1.4.2 To examine youth participation practices/strategies in place in the case study
- 1.4.3 To assess the challenges being experienced in promoting youth participation
- 1.4.4 To recommend appropriate strategies to improve youth participation

#### **1.5 MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION**

What is the impact of participation of youth in the delivery of low cost housing in uMlazi sections B and G housing projects?

## **1.6 SUBSIDIARY QUESTIONS**

1.6.1 Are there any practices/strategies in place for youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing?

1.6.2 What are the challenges in promoting youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing?

1.6.3 What can be done to improve youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing?

1.6.4 What are policies in place to guide the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing?

## **1.7 HYPOTHESIS**

Housing delivery process that is driven by active youth participation can ensure sustainable, responsive human settlements and beneficiary satisfaction.

## **1.8 DEFINITION OF KEY CONCEPTS**

### **1.8.1 Youth participation**

In order to understand the topic of this study an overview of key concepts relating to youth participation; and informal settlements and also informal settlement upgrading is defined and contextualized.

According to Canadian Mental Health Association, (1995) cited in Nwakaire et al., (2011), “Meaningful youth participation involves recognizing and nurturing the strengths, interests, and abilities of young people through the provision of real opportunities of youth to become involved in decisions that affect them at individual and general levels”.

On the other hand the national commission on resources for youth (1975) in the United States, states that it is fundamental to involve youth in different but very challenging activities in order for them to take part in meeting their needs and youth should be given

more opportunities in both planning and decision-making phases not only during the implementation. If youth are given these opportunities, there is definitely a possibility for them to grow as a collective or as a community.

Nwakaire et al. (2011) argue that young people must not be considered citizens of the future but rather citizens of today and be given a chance to take part in decision-making, more especially about things that concern them. They add that it is for this reason that the influence of young people in the delivery of low-cost housing has to be examined, and it is therefore essential to really understand what is meant by youth participation.

For the purpose of this study youth participation during housing delivery refers to the involvement of youth in all stages of the development, providing employment opportunities for youth which leads to skills development. When the government invests more in youth there is hope of better community in future.

### **1.8.2 Low-Cost Housing projects**

Tonkin (2008), feels housing is an expansive term that incorporates houses, flats and other housing typologies, and also framework and can incorporate the entire private neighborhood, including open spaces". Low-salary housing (in the South African context) is characterized as "housing for individuals whose consolidated month to month family unit wages are below R3,500 every month, R3,501-7,000, R7,001-15,000", yet the study concentrates on the R0-3,500 limit.

It is not just about putting a roof over somebody's head but scholastic exploration demonstrates that entrance to a clean and stable home suggests a change in security, wellbeing and instruction (Dept. of Human Settlements, 2011).

### **1.8.3 Informal settlement upgrading**

Informal settlement upgrading is defined according to the National Housing Code, (2009), as a programme that is the total opposite to the relocation model of housing delivery, whereby it is used in order to achieve objectives of security of tenure by enhancing the concept of citizenship, incorporating both rights and obligations, by recognising and formalising the tenure rights of residents within informal settlements; secondly promotion of health in terms of provision of affordable and sustainable basic municipal engineering infrastructure to the residents and lastly to empower residents by addressing social and economic exclusion, focusing on community empowerment and the promotion of social and economic integration, building social capital through participative processes and addressing the broader social needs of communities.

## **1.9 STUDY JUSTIFICATION**

The uMlazi sections B and G housing project should reflect the intentions of the BNG housing policy. Only a few studies has been conducted on the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing to measure the progress of the BNG in this regard, and hence this study fills a gap in housing policy implementation. Most studies have concentrated more on community participation in the delivery of housing, whereas this study focuses on another branch of community participation, which is youth participation.

The study seeks to evaluate the level to which youth has participated in the delivery of housing in uMlazi sections B and G. The study has specific relevance as it focuses not only on where the government has failed but also describes progress on the government's efforts to reduce income poverty through the participation of youth in the delivery of houses.

## **1.10 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This section states the research method that was used in this study. According Kumar, (1999) research refers to a way of thinking. Research critically examines different aspects of a particular profession, understands and formulates guidelines to govern a particular procedure (Kumar, 1999). Since this research was on housing discourse, qualitative method of research was used. The main aim was to clearly describe and understand the

manner in which youth took part in the delivery of low cost housing in uMlazi. This chapter presents the qualitative methods that were used in the research; sampling techniques; data collection instruments; data sources and data analysis.

### **1.11.1 Qualitative research**

Qualitative research is a study that is based on first hand data; it can be done through interviews, focus groups and observation (Kumar, (1999). According to Newman (1998), qualitative research includes literature studies; it involves an interpretive naturalistic approach to its matter. Qualitative research also includes the strategic use of empirical materials, personal experiences of the researcher of the respondents, interviews, case studies, and the way of life of the people.

The qualitative research method was used to study youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing and to provide some insights on people's views, opinions, behaviour, concerns, and aspirations. According to Denzin and Lincoln's (1994) view on youth participation in housing delivery, qualitative research is seen as a multi-method, involving an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. Some of the advantages of using qualitative research are that the researcher gets fresh information from the participants and it allows people to express their views, concerns and aspirations freely, hence researchers get to explore how and why phenomena occur (Denzin and Lincoln,1994).

### **1.11.2 Primary sources of data**

Primary source of data gives reliable information since it is first hand; it also gives direct evidence with regard to the topic that is under investigation or being assessed.

### **1.11.3 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES**

According to Kumar (1999), sampling is when one selects a small number of people out of a large group and then uses the smaller group to predict a phenomenon about the bigger group. Mugo (2006) argues that sampling is the act and process when one selects a small sample in order to gain understanding and characteristics of the entire big population, but in this study the researcher focus only on youth.

#### **1.11.4 Random Sampling**

The youth of section B and G was sampled, a sample size of 50 participants per section was selected through simple random sampling; this was done so that each individual youth had an equal chance of being selected. The researcher investigated information about employment opportunities for youth, the economic activities in close proximity to the delivery of low-cost housing and also the period of time that people have stayed in the area and the improvements that have taken place ever-since.

#### **1.11.5 Purposive sampling**

Purposive sampling was used by the researcher in order to select the respondents who were experts working on the low-cost housing projects (Kumar, 2008). Purposive sampling is where people from a selected group are selected and sampled purposively because of the information which they have about the subjects being studied. . The few chosen people are the representatives of the whole study area. Groves (2008) adds that purposive sampling is in most cases used to justify the addition of other sources of data that can be used to generate or test out the explanatory frameworks.

##### **1.11.5.1The key informants for the study were -:**

###### **(a) The Project Manager of B 10 project**

The project manager provided information on the youth participation and informal settlements upgrading in Umlazi B and G projects. The project manager also provided information on opportunities that were created for youth participation, empowerment and development of youth, the project manager also gave insights on the failures and successes of youth participation in the upgrading projects that they have completed.

### **(a) The contractor**

The contractor was responsible for hiring and supervising employees. The contractor was interviewed on some of the strategies that they used in order to promote youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing. In addition, the contractor provided information on the number of young people that were employed in the projects.

### **(b) Councillors**

The main responsibility of councillors is to facilitate service delivery in their communities. In the study the councillors from B and G sections were interviewed on the strategies that they implemented in order to ensure the involvement of youth, youth development and empowerment in the upgrading of informal settlements and in other community initiatives in order to fight youth unemployment and crime.

### **(c) Observation**

Observation was another technique that was used by the researcher to collect data. The researcher sought to know the economic activities taking place at Umlazi sections B and G, participation of youth in the development initiatives, skills development activities and the general living conditions at Umlazi.

### **1.11.3 Secondary data**

Secondary data is information that has already been collected and is usually available in published or electronic form (Kumar, 2008). Secondary sources of data were used such as books, journal articles, government documents, newspapers and online material.

## **1.12 DATA ANALYSIS**

Bogdan & Biklen (1992:153) defines data analysis as a “process of systematically searching and arranging interview transcripts, field notes, and other materials which were assimilated by the researcher to increase her or his understanding of the mind which enables the researcher to that which was discovered by others.”

Thematic analysis was used to analyze data because it is very effective for this kind of research. It is a very common procedure used for organizing and working through data. According to Hartas, (2010) thematic analysis is not a unified entity, but describes a general interest in the exploration of themes. It is based on creation of themes that are described in many different categories. This analysis strategy assisted in this study in order to categorize different youth opportunities and ways in which youth participate meaningfully in the delivery of housing. An independent appraisal and evaluation of the uMlazi section B and G informal settlements upgrading projects was done in order to identify the successes and failures of the project and to advocate for a gradual increase in the scale of youth participation in other housing delivery projects.

### **1.13 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

The researcher experienced a challenge in interviewing municipality officials on time due to their work commitments, but later the challenge was over-come, and the officials cooperated although the interviews were delayed.

The data was collected during working hours and a few young people did not want to participate, because they argued they did not want to be involved in politics, but the researcher was able to prove that the study was not political and that the study was ethically approved by the university; hence young people took part in the study.

## **1. 14 STRUCTURE OF THE DISSERTATION**

### **1.14.1 Chapter 1 – Introduction and Research Methodology**

This chapter introduces the research study. It further gives the background to the research problem and the historical events that influenced the research study. The aims and objectives of the study are also included in this chapter. The research question and subsidiary questions are included. This chapter also discusses the research methodology used in conducting the research.

### **1.14.2 Chapter 2 – Theoretical Framework and Literature Review**

This chapter outlines different theories that have informed the study. Literature containing precedent studies on the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing. This consists of local and international precedent studies, outlining the experience of international communities about the participation of youth in low-cost housing projects and youth development initiatives. This provides lessons against which to examine local experience. Local experiences recorded in local precedent studies reviewed. The South African housing policy and how it was envisaged to reduce income poverty and advocate for the participation of youth is outlined in this chapter.

### **1.14.3 Chapter 3 – Historical Background of the Study Area**

This chapter gives a detailed description of uMlazi sections B and G housing project. It includes the history of the area and its location. It describes the development of services, amenities and infrastructure that have taken place up to the present. Maps were used to give a clear description of the study area.

### **1.14.4 Chapter 4 – Research Findings, Data Analysis and Interpretation**

This chapter presents the outcome of all information gathered from the respondents. This includes beneficiaries and government institutions. The chapter also analyzes and relates the research findings to the theories and literature that have been discussed.

### **1.14.5 Chapter 5 – Summary of Findings, Recommendations and Conclusion**

This chapter provides the summary of findings and conclusions of the study. It makes recommendations as to whether or not to increase the scale of youth participation or maybe what can be done to ensure a more effective tool in the alleviation of income poverty.

## **CHAPTER TWO: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2. Introduction**

This chapter examines both local and international literature on youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing in order to provide a conceptual framework for the study. The chapter further examines the debate around the importance of youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing. This chapter is critical as it helps in the formulation of the research questions and debate around youth participation in the delivery of housing.

The study used an enabling approach, and the dependency theory. It is very clear from the problem statement that in post-*apartheid* South Africa youth participation has been the focus area by the national government in policy documents and in speeches, but in practice this is not the case as it has often become too formal, legalized and politicized (Jordhus-Lier et al., 2013). Hence these approaches will provide a much needed platform for the objectives of the realization of youth participation to ensure sustainable and responsive human settlements. The two approaches are people centered and they allow for the housing project to be driven by the people and for the people which as a result responds to the diverse needs of the people and youth in particular in terms of empowerment. Some of the key objectives of these approaches are to create employment opportunities for youth, skills development and youth empowerment at large in order to enable youth to make informed decisions in future.

#### **2.1 Enabling Approach**

According to UNCHS-Habitat (1999) cited in Myeni, (2005) the enabling approach is a strategic approach whereby the government shifts focus from providing complete housing units to a situation where the state provides basic infrastructure or a core house and leaves the responsibility to the beneficiaries to complete their housing units. The government plays the role of an enabler which is instrumental and critical more especially when one is examining South Africa that is characterized by a high rate of unemployment more especially for youth. The South African government must do away with their role as

a housing provider and adopt an enabling approach where the youth will actively participate in the delivery of low-cost housing.

According to Myeni, (2005) there is more to housing than living space and shelter; its proper logical implementation also provides skills and employment for the youth. The World Bank (2000) adds that the South African government should shift from the role it currently plays of being a provider of housing and adopt an enabling approach. The enabling approach is a strategic route for the government as it will not only minimize the housing backlog but it will allow the youth to actively participate in the delivery of housing and by so doing the state is developing youth in order to come up with better ways to fight the housing backlog and unemployment.

UNCHS-Habitat (1999) cited in Myeni, (2005), emphasized the importance of the role that is being played by the government of an enabler, arguing that the involvement of the government in the economy only improves the productivity of small enterprises and also ensures that they contribute significantly to macroeconomic good performance. Myeni (2005) feels that the fundamental role that is being played by the state of being an enabler is emphasized because of its potential in the provision of housing more significantly in the provision of the five important housing delivery components. The five components include among others the land, finance, skills transfer to youth and infrastructure. The government playing the role of being an enabler provides a framework that regulates the delivery of housing. Furthermore Myeni (2005) argues that housing is more than just the living space or just the physical structure of the house; the proper thinking around housing is that it must provide skills and employment for the youth in the area where the development takes place.

According to the World Bank cited in Myeni, (2005) self-help housing has not produced the expected outcomes more especially the housing stock and youth empowerment when it is provided by the government; as a result the World Bank (2000) advocates for the government to abandon its current role of being a provider and adopt a new route which is enabler, hence the thinking here is that when the government adopts the enabling role

that will by far minimize the current housing backlog s because the youth and the community at large will be responsible for the development of their houses and the government will play a facilitation role to ensure everything goes smoothly.

Myeni (2005) applauds the enabling approach by the government arguing that this approach has the potential to create a demand for skills training for the youth on the ground. Those skills can be transferred or used in other housing projects or be used locally during housing consolidation.

Adebayo (1999) cited in Myeni (2005) argues that some of the most critical aspects on which the enabling approach rests are income generation and employment creation. On the other hand Myeni (2005) feels that the enabling approach, when implemented well, does not only create a demand for skills training for youth, but also has the potential to enhance job creation and sustainability of employment. The enabling approach can yield positive results when there is political will and full support of the citizen. Myeni (2005) argues that in the South African context, an enabling approach can yield positive outcomes if all role-players in the delivery of low-cost housing take serious actions in creating employment opportunities and other income generating opportunities should be taken as a matter of urgency in an attempt to eradicate poverty in the country.

Myeni (2005) further emphasizes the fundamental role that is played by the new South African government, arguing that when the state plays the role of an enabler that alone has the potential to create an enabling environment for youth to participate actively in the delivery of low-cost housing. The enabling approach was therefore used in the study as a systematic tool to measure or test whether or not an enabling environment for youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing has been created.

## **2.2 Skills transfer to the youth**

According to Bond (1998) cited in Myeni, (2005), skills development can be used as a tool to create an enabling environment for youth in poor societies. Youth participation in the construction of housing during the delivery would not only benefit the youth but the

community at large in terms of employment sustainability and improvement in the standard of living. The youth that participate in the construction of houses will therefore join the workforce even after the project has been concluded, but with the skills that they have acquired they will be able to get employment elsewhere. It is imperative that youth is not only trained to physically build houses, but also they must be taught about project packaging, project planning so that in future they will be able to make some informed decisions in developing their communities.

ILO (1995) argues that the a large population of south African people do not have access to finance, and as a result people are unable to construct housing or find ways to improve the houses that they already have. It is believed that through an enabling approach followed by intensive skills training, there are many possibilities for a better life of the people. There is a lot that youth can benefit from when working as a community rather than individually because the main aim is to grow as a collective. Skills development directly gives rise to empowerment.

Empowerment is defined by Haricharan (1995) as an assembled process where individuals who are unskilled are given trainings and workshops in order to increase their access to, and control over employment opportunities. Moreover Schuftan (1996) came up with a more complex and straight to the point definition of empowerment; she adds that empowerment includes a series of continuous processes that enables youth to understand, upgrade and also use their intellectual capacity to be able to have full control over their lives. When people have acquired skills or are empowered they get to make choices and have ability to choose the resources they need in order to upgrade their standard of living. Hence when youth are empowered enough, there are a number of opportunities that they will be able to participate in and also they will create more job opportunities for the next generation which in turn will assist in the struggle against poverty and youth unemployment.

According to Myeni, (2005) transferring different skills to youth is one aspect of creating an enabling environment for youth, he adds that youth should not only be taught skills in

the construction department, but they should start forming housing cooperatives and individual contractors so that they also create employment opportunities for other young people. Youth should also be taught some skills in the furniture-making industry as well as gardening in order to be able to participate in the economy actively by selling their surplus and be able to support their families and improve their standard of living and also create employment opportunities for others in the commercial industry.

Youth empowerment is understood in the housing circles as young people taking part in decision-making in housing related issues, the transfer of skills to the youth and also their actual physical participation in the delivery of housing during construction of houses. Youth should be treated as citizens of today rather than of the future so that their participation results in them owning the project and the ownership of a project allows people to respond to their housing challenges or problems when they are hands on rather than being passive recipients (Knight, 2004).

Youth participation has been a global agenda including in South Africa; the debate shows the importance of youth participation in service delivery, even though little has been done on the ground. In the South African context almost all government departments, the private sector and the department of human settlements in their speeches have all approved the concept of youth participation. It is evident that a lot has been said in speeches but the proper implementation of this concept especially in the lower levels of our communities is still very problematic because of the low appetite of youth participation at local levels.

### **2.3 Dependency theory**

Dependency theory is a theory that investigate how developing and developed countries associate with one another. Ferraro (1996) argue that the dependency theory was initially presented in the 1950s where it drew on Marxian investigation of how the worldwide economy works or how diverse countries live respectively. Dependency theory can be inspected as an inverse of the free market theory of connection. Dependency theory was initially planned in the 1950s, drawing on a Marxian examination of the worldwide

economy, and as an immediate test to the free market monetary approaches of the post-War period. According to Ferraro (1996) there are still genuine differences among the different strains of dependency scholars and it is a slip-up to imagine that there is a stand out bound together theory of dependency. There are some central recommendations which appear to underline the examination of most reliance scholars.

Ferraro (1996) also argues that the dependency theory can also be defined or used to explain the economic development of a country taking into consideration the influence from the external world, for example on the economy, politics and cultural on national development policies. Besides, reliance can be characterized as an authentic condition which shapes certain structures of the world economy such that it supports some nations to the detriment of others and limits the advancement of conceivable outcomes of the subordinate economies; a circumstance in which the economy of a specific gathering of nations is adapted by the improvement and development of another economy, to which their own is subjected.

Profitable resources such as the area and housing are imperative to poor urban family units (Moser, 1996). Land and housing go together in light of the fact that with the end goal of individuals having admittance to housing, there ought to be land accessibility. Area is vital to the provincial poor as a beneficial resource, though urban poor have a more notable requirement for housing as a gainful resource (Moser, 1996). A house turns into a profitable resource when it can be utilized by the family unit to produce income. A house as a monetary resource offers family units a chance to run home-based endeavors and to give home augmentations over to rental rooms. Rooms can be changed to tuck shops and numerous other wage producing exercises can be led in a house as proposed by the BNG housing policy.

## **2.4 Unpacking the concept of participation**

According to Wates (2000) in his community planning handbook, participation can be defined as the act of being physically involved in something. Habraken (2005) adds that participation has two definitions that have two different meanings. Habraken argues that participation can also indicate allocating certain crucial roles of the development to a few

professionals. The second definition by Habraken states that it is where there is no obligation between the citizens and the professionals; however the assessment of the citizens is taken into account while settling on choices about the empowerment for the youth by the general population.

The above mentioned definitions of participation, makes it very clear that there is no universal definition for participation. But one can argue that participation can be interpreted in different ways depending on which angle one is using to unpack this concept. Shaeffer (1994) argues that there are different stages or levels of participation and these levels include participation through the contribution of financial resources, the materials and provision of labour; taking part through being present in meetings, respecting decisions that are made by other people; taking part through constant consultation around a specific developmental issue; cooperation in the conveyance of an administration, all the more frequently as an accomplice with different role-players, and support as venture implementers of designated forces and investment in genuine choice at each stage, including recognizable proof of issues, arranging, usage and assessment (Uemura (1999).

In any case, Uemura (1999) feels that Shaeffer in his group arranging handbook, stressed that the initial four levels utilized the word participation and proposed basically a latent joint effort, while the last three items utilized the dynamic part. Additionally, participation is more concerned with youth empowerment and expanding youth's feeling of control over issues which influence their lives. (Aref, 2010).

## **2.5 THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

Youth participation in the delivery of housing can be seen from the point of view of advantages to be picked up and expenses to be permitted. Thwala contends that on multiple occasions, interest on volunteer gatherings is a central science for youth's meanings of self-regard and self-personality in a housing development that worry them, more in particularly when they have been disregarded for quite some time. According to Kornhauser (1959) participatory groups work as direct links between the youth and

community structures with all members of the group seeking a common good. Moreover for the youth to participate in housing development, they always ask what benefits will accrue to them in the process.

There are five advantages or benefits to be gained from active youth participation in community development programmes such as housing development; youth can benefit in terms of employment opportunities and also be able to create job opportunities for others so that they grow as a collective. Furthermore when young people are actively participating in the delivery process of a housing project they learn new skills; the youth can use the same skills that they have acquired from participating in the project and use them in other projects in order to earn a living and improve their standard of living, moreover youth that participate in the delivery process of housing get to know about starting their own construction companies or any other construction related business and inspire other youth to do good. Lastly one can argue that the more youth participate in the delivery of housing the less chance of them abusing drugs and alcohol as they are busy most of the time and the youth also do not have time to commit crime and be in danger of losing their lives.

According to Heberlein (1976) youth participation in development usually results in better decisions. Besides, Thwala (2011) argues youth decisions that have significantly more to do with youth would probably be acceptable to the neighborhood in light of better community decisions. Development of youth participation serves to check political activities. Likewise, participation permits more access to the democratic based society. Cahn and Camper (1968) took a step further in proposing three essential inspirations for youth investment in a housing development. In the first place, they recommend that realizing that one can take part in housing improvement instils a sense of poise and independence inside a person. Second, participation taps the dynamic condition of financial status of the youth in the general public. Lastly, support when executed well gives a framework of unique understanding and experience with which to execute community solutions.

Cook (1975) argues that youth support in housing improvement can legitimize a system, its plans, its activities, and authority. A specific end goal to legitimize can in some cases mean the contrast in between achievement and disappointment of youth. Moreover he adds that when leaders are not getting full support of the youth or community they get discouraged and end up dropping activities that were potentially very beneficial to not only the youth but the community at large. Also, youth participation in housing development can reduce the cost for labour needed to carry out many of the duties associated with such development. Furthermore he concludes that without support worthwhile projects would never be achieved in many communities.

Khuzwayo, (2011) argues that South Africa as one of the members of the global world does not survive alone, but needs other countries. Therefore South Africa has an obligation to follow and do as other countries do in terms of agreements and standards. Among other measures by the United Nations General Assembly World Programme of Action for the Youth is one to strive to strengthen all nations' capacities with the youth and increase the number of young people who are actively involved in the developments in the community. One of the United Nations' principles is to promote participation of youth at all levels of decision-making.

The United Nations General Assembly also identifies the reasons behind the lack of youth participation and other challenges that young people are faced with in participating actively in the delivery of services. The General Assembly suggests that young people should participate fully and be effective in all society decisions. Moreover, the charter put more emphasis on the gradual progress of society to be solely dependent on investing in youth and empowering them now so that they will be better citizens in future. Furthermore, Khuzwayo, (2011) adds that it is very important to take into consideration the perspective that is brought forward by the youth because youth should be taken as the citizens of today not of the future and in that way youth is being empowered. According to the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth 2000 and Beyond cited in Khuzwayo, (2011:25-26) youth organisations plays a vital role in skills transfer in order to ensure that youth is developed.

Additionally the charter emphasised that the limit for the advancement of our social orders is based on different components, on their ability to fuse the commitment and obligation of youth in building and outlining what is to come. Moreover, Khuzwayo, (2011) concludes that more than the scholarly commitment and their capacity to assemble support, the young additionally bring a one of a kind point of view that should be taken into record. The United Nations additionally perceives youth associations as imperative to discussions for adding to the aptitudes that are essential for powerful youth interest and trades between youth associations (UN World Programme of Action for Youth 2000 and Beyond: 25-26) referred to in Khuzwayo, (2011).

## **2.6 BARRIERS TO YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN HOUSING**

The study demonstrates that youth participation has increased immensely in the delivery of low-cost housing, it is just as essential to perceive a portion of the difficulties included in participatory advancement approaches. Thwala (2011) argue that an unmistakable understanding of individual obstructions of investment will help the community and all other role-players who lead associations to effect housing development strategy-making forms. Besides, Thwala (2011) adds that beating the boundaries to youth participation in the delivery of housing advancements will serve to encourage the approach-making process and in this manner general youth significant support in the housing development process.

Moatasim (2005) argues that every project has a definite start and finish and there are cost implications attached to that, hence when participation is used at the end of the development process it always becomes a time consuming process and as a result it will escalate the overall housing project cost. Moatasim (2005) cited in Thwala (2011) adds that there is a great fear on the part of the government of uncontrolled empowerment of youth and also lack of trust in their ability to be able to make some informed decisions, which hinders the government in their bid to change their overprotective approach in decision-making. Moreover Thwala (2011) argues that the only way to overcome the barriers to youth participation is to examine or look at participation from a wider

perspective rather than narrowing down to just one component and it is also equally important to measure its benefits against the limitations. It takes a number of years for a fully participatory housing project to achieve its goals, but the research has shown that the results in the form of youth employment and empowerment go a long way (Thwala, 2011).

According to Davy,(2006) other youth participation obstructions in the delivery of housing includes role-players skipping honest to goodness cooperation, more often this is a result of political and social pressure keeping in mind the end goal to demonstrate that the housing advancement is proceeding as guaranteed; the absence of backing by the youth for the housing improvement venture, in light of the constrained association of the young all the more particularly the influenced youth, in the arranging and planning phases of the task; the partners neglecting to comprehend the progress of youth inclusion and trusting that the young is a united body; overlooking how the community is organized while presenting participatory procedures.

## **2.7 ENCOURAGING YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

According to Sibiya (2010) there are a number of ways that can be used to promote youth participation. Burkey (1993) contends that youth participation is a vital and principal piece of human development, which is the key in the improvement of self-assurance, pride, activity, imagination, obligation and participation. Participation is henceforth being seen progressively as the procedure of enabling the neighborhood youth (Kumar, 2002). The most basic step that the neighborhood powers can take is to support youth participation and urge nearby youth to add to the exercises which are actualized or to be executed.

United Nations records (1981) that youth participation creates opportunities, which empowers young people to effectively add to and impact on the advancement process and to share equitably in the products of improvement. According to Nampila, (2005) young people ought to feel that they can influence the outcome of a task. Burkey (1993) contends that country advancement systems can realise their maximum capacity just

through the inspiration and dynamic investment at grassroots level of rural individuals. The results of youth participation process cannot be predictable because individuals are unpredictable. Sibiya (2010) concludes that the procedure must be sufficiently adaptable keeping in mind the end goal to adjust to unanticipated circumstances. Additionally he recognizes that it is not generally conceivable to fulfill everybody's dreams, which brings about a few individuals not benefiting from advancement.

Youth participation should seek to include the previously disadvantaged or normally excluded people from the process. Youth participation needs to be an ongoing commitment beginning with where people are as opposed to setting aspirations too high (Nampila, 2005). Furthermore, people should be presented with a clear picture of the work of voluntary institutions (Hendriks, 1968).

## **2.8 THE BROADER SOCIETAL PERCEPTION ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

According to Khuzwayo, (2011) in many discussions young people have been seen or viewed as a certain population in society that brings problems every day. Among other problems they include teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, ever-increasing unemployment rate as well as many other problems that are associated with illnesses. Khuzwayo feels that these problems paint a bad picture about the youth separates them from society and there is an assumption that these problems need to be resolved first before youth can be counted as part of community.

Roche, et al., (1997) argue that people who make assumptions about the youth base their arguments on the evidence that youth are non-participants in elections. Furthermore a survey that was done by a British youth council in 1993 showed that a huge number of young people who were between the ages of 16 and 25 years were not only unprepared to vote, but they were not registered to vote, this was far bigger than any other age group. This action by the youth of not registering to vote raises a question as to whether their action is apathy or just a way of them saying, "What is the use of us voting because we are not valued." On the other hand, one can look at the situation from a different

perspective and argue that maybe it is a way of youth distancing themselves from politics with an aim of seeing whether they are important in the development of the country and if they are important; they will be valued and empowered.

Moreover even though there is a low turnout in youth voters, youth participation in service delivery protests was reported to be very high, which confirms that young people do participate in politics but outside the ballot box. According to HRSC, (2006) there was very little if any data available on the extent to which the youth have been involved in delivery protests. According Roche et al., (1997) cited in Khuzwayo (2011) learning to participate and proper training is fundamental more especially when one is moving from a position of exclusion and powerlessness.

According to Yohalem and Martin, (2007) cited in Khuzwayo, (2011) it is not new that young people have long been working with adults in ensuring change in the delivery of services to the people not only in South Africa but throughout the world. In several other countries, like Cambodia, local organisations were able to train local people on computer skills and some sanitation and hygiene out of nothing, which shows that working together indeed we can do more as opposed to excluding youth because they have a role to play. Another good example where youth took charge is in Mexico where they have a youth alliance that is responsible for all youth matters and discuss them with the government's cabinet for children.

Devas and Grant, (2003) argue that there are countries where participation for all citizens is prioritised; for example in Uganda the government made provision for a number of opportunities in order for everyone to actively participate whether young or adult. The local council always ensures the reservation of a number of seats for young people to take part in the discussions and decision-making more especially on measures that are aimed at solving youth problems.

According the National Youth Policy Framework, (2002-2007) the South African government has taken drastic measures in responding to challenges of youth participation. As a remedy to youth participation challenges the National Youth

Commission Act of 1996 was established and this Act serves to ensure that youth is involved in all matters of the government. The Umsobomvu was also established in order for the youth to be hands on with different programmes that help them develop themselves.

## **2.9 CIVIC PARTICIPATION AS A MECHANISM TO PROMOTE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICIES**

This section makes use of knowledge from different theories and highlights some of the fundamental aspects that are crucial in understanding and also arguing for youth participation as mature citizens in the state business of delivering services to the people. This section also link theories with youth development legislative frameworks. The South African constitution in the democratic country allows for all citizens to take part in the development that is being made for them. “Nothing for us without us”, and the Policy also enforces transparency and some high level of accountability by civil servants. Devas and Grant, (2003) cited in Khuzwayo, (2011) argue that the public sector must include the youth in development activities. People who are delegated with the task of managing the community, for example the local authority officials, councillors most from the ruling political party, mentors, school teachers, different sport codes leaders must have one intention of promoting participation of youth in the delivery of basic needs to the people and everyone must have a role to play regardless of their age in order to talk of meaningful participation of citizens.

Khuzwayo, (2011) highlights three fundamental features of participation of youth and shows understanding that can be viewed as a vital role of participation of youth in the delivery of services for the citizens. It is very important to get full information about the community, all their problems, challenges and even their political problems and find ways whereby youth inject change. Khuzwayo, (2011) feels that youth will be motivated to participate in all community matters when they know that they are valued. Moreover, Khuzwayo adds, that in order to achieve collective or group goals skills transfer is a must, and these skills include among others attentive listening, teaching youth to be able to

speak in public and get the message across, there is a need to train youth to be leaders of change, and be able to communicate well with the local authority and organizing meetings and ensure that all community members have a say in those meetings. In order for youth to understand and identify their needs they need people who are educated to train others and they can then grow as a collective and all participate in the delivery of low-cost housing in their communities.

According to Roche et al., (1997) cited in Khuzwayo, (2011) there is a need for an open strategy that looks to react to and have an effect on young people's lives through youth offices or input from young people.

There is a requirement for a more constructive and comprehensive methodology keeping in mind the end goal to examine how open arrangements affect the youth and determine this by direct engagement with young people themselves. Then again Hacket contends that level headed discussion will finish up with hostility until government and every single political party begins to connect with youth on all issues influencing their lives, youth will not join parties and there will be no expansion in gathering political cooperation.

The South African government in its attempt to enhance and promote democracy through civil society engagement has created a platform through legislative framework and other policies that aimed at involving youth in matters of governance. Besides, youth participation in civic matters has turned into a critical argument with a condition for vote-based restoration and upgrade of the well-being of the young. UNICEF, (2003) cited in Khuzwayo, (2011) contends that as South Africa is a member of the United Nations, this implies that it is committed to advance human rights, and energize youth participation in all spheres of life. Furthermore as required by section 2 of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution, youth require support in South Africa.

## **2.10 MUNICIPALITIES OPENING YOUTH UNITS**

The eThekwini Municipality followed the arrangement goals of the division of provincial and local government (DPLG) structure for youth participation in local government; this was done through the foundation of eThekwini skills development unit, which is an established body as per part 80 of the Municipal Systems Act of 2000.

Khuzwayo, (2011) argues that eThekwini youth unit consists of councillors who are elected democratically on a party representation basis, and who work hand in hand with senior municipality officials employed in order to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of youth development programmes. Furthermore he further states that the role of democratically elected councillors is serving on youth committees, monitoring and evaluating the programmes that are undertaken by youth development practitioners, and they are assigned with a massive responsibility to institutionalise and mainstream youth development within the eThekwini municipal council. Moreover the eThekwini Municipality Youth Unit is responsible for promoting, advocating, lobbying and facilitating for an enabling environment that seeks to improve access to skills, employability and entrepreneurship of young people.

Civil society bodies consist of ward youth development gatherings. These gatherings act as a connection between the young community and government structures. Khuzwayo, (2011) concludes that as the local youth forum is a consultative gathering that speaks to the youth and in the interests of young people, unquestionably should be conveyed to government and *vice versa*.

## **2.11 ETHEKWINI YOUTH COUNCILS AS CUSTODIANS OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

The Youth Council of eThekwini Municipality is made of many different stakeholders who also form integrated development plan (IDP) committee. These role-players incorporate among others the delegates from nearby interest groups, for instance the eThekwini Youth Forum and Youth Development Programmes, and it is young people themselves who distinguished these agents with a specific end goal to advance the social prosperity

of the youth in the eThekweni Municipality jurisdiction. The Youth Council is likewise endeavoring to address an assortment of nearby financial difficulties, for example, abilities, HIV/AIDS, drug misuse, early high school pregnancy, and the deficiency of games facilities and absence of recreational exercises to keep youth occupied and off the streets.

The fundamental destinations of youth board summits are to talk about youth development matters and audit progress in the usage of resolutions settled upon in earlier years; to further propel the young development centre capacity crosswise over eThekweni Municipality wards. It is additionally to start and manage organizations with different partners in the youth improvement plan; and to include youth during the time spent recognizing tasks to be provided for youth in the eThekweni Youth Offices.

## **2.12 THE UPGRADING OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

According Masiteng (2013) the history of informal settlements in South Africa can be traced back as far as 1960s. According to Huchzermeyer, et al. (2006) cited in Masiteng (2013) informal settlements have marked the urban landscape in South Africa for at least a century. The growth of informal settlements in South Africa can be justified but it is basically a response to shortage of housing, which is part of the *apartheid* legacy. The main reasons that force people to resort to informal settlements are economic decline and rising rate of unemployment (Sapire, 1992). Huchzermeyer, et al. (2006) adds that even when informal settlements are built on private land illegally they are recognized as an immediate and most accessible solution to the housing shortage. Furthermore Hall and Pfeiffer, (2000) cited in Masiteng (2013), argue that there are other issues that force people to resort to informal settlements, for example rural poverty makes people move to urban areas in search for a better life and employment opportunities. As a result the urban poor have resorted to risky housing conditions in make shift structures using bad materials, with no security of tenure and also surviving on the informal economy. Knight, (2006) argues that previously the South African government dealt harshly with informal settlements and the illegality of the informal settlements which resulted in forced

removals. Furthermore Knight (2006) adds that informal settlements are here to stay for the next decade and beyond.

The national Housing Department in 2004 produced a document known as BNG, which consists of different issues dealing directly with the demand for housing, supply and delivery. BNG came up with a strategy for a new human settlement plan in informal settlements, where the Department of Human Settlements accordingly introduced a new informal settlement upgrading instrument, which is “*in-situ* upgrading” (Department of Housing, 2004: 5).

Informal settlement upgrading is defined according to the National Housing Code, (2009), as a programme that is the total opposite of the relocation model of housing delivery, whereby it is used in order to achieve objectives of security of tenure by enhancing the idea of citizenship, consolidating both rights and commitments, by perceiving and formalizing the rights of tenure of occupants inside informal settlements. It also promotes well-being with procurement of a moderate and maintainable basic municipal design framework for the inhabitants and engages occupants by addressing social and financial exclusion, concentrating on community empowerment and the advancement of social and economic reconciliation, building social capital through participative procedures and tending to the more extensive social needs of communities.

## **2.13 YOUTH PARTICIPATION WITHIN LEGAL PARTICIPATORY FRAMEWORKS**

After 1994, when the new South African government took over and formulated laws and policies with a view to promoting and instilling a culture of youth participation in all levels of government. Moreover the Constitution made it necessary for every single local government to energize youth participation and all community associations on matters that concern local government. The Constitution likewise accommodates the foundation of a formative local government and the goals of local government are (a) to give vote-based and responsible government to local communities; (b) to advance social and monetary improvement; (c) to energize the contribution of youth and groups in matters of local government (Republic of South Africa, 1996).

## **2.14 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

The National youth Commission Act, 1996 (Act 19 of 1996) was set up absolutely as a statutory body tasked with defining a NYP and coordinating its implementation and also advocating for youth development in the country.

### **2.14.1 THE WHITE PAPER ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Khuzwayo, (2011) argues that the White Paper as a short constitution for the local circles of the legislature, defines local government as local government responsibility to working with youth individuals inside of the group to discover long haul or more practical approaches to meet social, monetary and material needs and enhance the way of life of the general population. These gatherings incorporate ladies, youth, impaired individuals and youngsters.

### **2.14.2 NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY 2000 (developed in 1997)**

This policy was never adopted, but to a great extent it educated the Cabinet's choice to underwrite and embrace the National youth improvement strategy structure (NYDPF). It likewise provided guidance on activity steps that should be embraced by the State and society everywhere to meet the difficulties confronted by the nation's youth. This arrangement to be sure cleared a route for the legislature to comprehend the necessities of the youth on how best to react to the difficulties of the young.

### **2.14.3 NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK (NYDPF) 2002-2007)**

The South African government further demonstrated their dedication to youth improvement when the National Youth Development Policy Framework was passed.

Under the system the government indicates endeavors to move to a more holistic and coordinated way to deal with youth advancement through the recognizable proof of vital mediation to react to particular needs, difficulties and opportunities facing the young. Khuzwayo, (2011) states that the system additionally gives a layout to the mainstreaming of youth advancement as a key part of the more extensive changes extended and challenges in South Africa.

Furthermore the NYDPF gave the connection to the Government's youth activity, arguing for an incorporated, comprehensive youth improvement system. It further expressed the estimations of value, differing qualities, review, responsiveness to the requirements and connections of youngsters, and an introduction that is feasible, participatory, comprehensive, gender sensitive, open and straightforward. The lessons learnt from the NYDPF demonstrated that a more engaged approach is required to react to the changing needs of youngsters in the 21st century.

#### **2.14.4 The White Paper on Reconstruction and Development Programme (1994)**

The RDP was a plan by the newly democratically elected Government to redress social and economic challenges faced by the country as a result of discriminatory policies of the previous governments. The RDP made specific commitments to the empowerment of South African women, youth, rural and disabled persons. The RDP committed the Government to ensuring that suitable programmes aimed at young people are established to ensure redress of backlogs in education and training, job creation and recreation; hence the RDP created an expectation to the nation that the time people have long been waiting for had finally come, where not only their voices would be heard but also they would be given an opportunity to participate in the development of their communities.

#### **2.14.5 World Programme of Action on Youth (2000)**

The United Nations' ministers responsible for youth from different countries adopted the World Programme of Action on Youth for the year 2000 and beyond. This is a 10-year plan aimed at effectively addressing the problems of young people. It is a policy

framework that seeks to deliver opportunities that would enhance young people's participation in society and provide practical guidelines for youth development supported by national and international institutions. The plan contains concrete proposals on how countries should improve the well-being and livelihoods of young people in their respective countries.

The efforts of the United Nations of having youth in all national and international institutions actively participating is being realised; for example the South African government has made it a point that all government departments have young people working there, and also the establishment of work experience programmes shows the commitment of the government to better the lives of young people in the country and currently the state is increasing the number of young people who are given the chance to work in government departments in order to gain much needed experience.

#### **2.14.6 African Youth Charter (2006)**

The African Youth Charter is a political and legal document that serves as a strategic framework that gives direction to youth empowerment and development at continental, regional and national levels. The charter is in line with the efforts of the African Union (AU) that seek to provide an avenue for effective youth development. The charter was adopted in May 2006 and endorsed by AU heads of states in July 2006. South Africa is in the process of ratifying and signing the charter. The African Youth Charter is consistent with the South African Constitution and virtually all its provisions are in line with the socio-economic programmes being implemented, or envisaged.

#### **2.14.7 MUNICIPAL STRUCTURES ACT NO 117 OF 1998**

Chapter 2 of the Municipal structures Act requires that municipalities must do all in their power to ensure the realization of the objectives set out in section 152 of the Constitution and calls for all municipalities to develop a strategy or a mechanism that they can use in

order to consult or exchange ideas with youth and community organisations in their performance of local government functions. Furthermore chapter 4 (part 4) of the Act requires also that municipalities establish ward committees, with an aim of enhancing participatory democracy in local government. Hence the councillors have been very vocal in the creation of these ward committees where the youth will be able to share their frustrations and constructive ideas with regard to their participation in service delivery and their empowerment at large.

#### **2.14.8 MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS ACT 32 OF 2000**

According to this Act, Municipalities are encouraged to create conditions for local communities to actively participate in their affairs; and this includes youth participation in the preparation, organization and review of the IDP. In order to promote youth participation and development, young people must be involved in the IDP processes. In South Africa the youth constitute the majority of the population, the youth having been disadvantaged by the policies of the past and the challenges faced by youth more specifically South African youth, local government as the closest sphere to the communities should commit to promoting youth development.

#### **2.14.9 THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION ACT NO 10 OF 1996**

The arrival of democratic government in South Africa in 1994 acknowledged the importance of youth and youth development. The South African Constitution recognizes the role that is being played by young people, and also the constitution recognizes the role that the youth are going to play in future in building society that belongs to all who live in it. The South African government showed their commitment by passing the National Youth Commission Act no 19 of 1996; furthermore the passing of this Act shows the commitment of the government also to treat the needs of the youth in a serious and comprehensive manner.

The literature shows the government working hand in hand with international organizations; for example the United Nations and other organizations have launched different strategies in order to address the youth challenges in societies. Furthermore

there is progress but it is a long process and cannot be achieved in one day but one can only credit the measures that have been brought in order to improve the participation of youth in the delivery of human settlements which leads to youth empowerment and youth development and at the same time fights youth unemployment.

## **2.15 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

The South African Constitution makes it an obligation or responsibility for facilitating and coordinating youth development in four broad categories of institutions and organisations; according to the South African constitution all three spheres of government have the responsibility of making policy and they also have a role of monitoring the implementation of the government's programme of action in line with a broad national agenda and policy framework; the constitution further states that the national and provincial legislatures are tasked with a monitoring and evaluation role in terms of the implementation of youth development activities. In addition independent foundations were built up to screen government's system of activity, hear protests, do research and answer to parliament; furthermore urban culture has an extremely basic part to play as far as usage of distinguished projects, additionally capacitating youth and acting as the voice of the youth and also backing young people and their organisations. Then again, the approach structure requires the improvement of pointers for checking the general advances made as far as the change of personal satisfaction of youth, and more particularly the effect of focused mediation.

## **2.16 WHITE PAPER ON NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE**

Khuzwayo, (2011) argues that soon after formation of the National Youth Policy, the white paper on the establishment of the National Youth Services Programme (NYSP) was prepared. The NYSP not only sets out timeframes, but also sets targets for the implementation of the programmes in the whole of South Africa.

Furthermore Khuzwayo adds that the main objectives for the establishment of NYSP was to advance social attachment among youth, impart a way of life of administration in communities; advance youth's understanding of their part in the advancement of community mindfulness and national remaking; likewise to build up the information,

aptitudes and capacities of youth to empower them to make an important movement to adulthood and to enhance youth employability through production of job open doors for improvement of abilities, work encounters and backing to access monetary and further learning opportunities (Final draft structure for youth improvement at nearby government, 2008) cited in Khuzwayo, 2011).

The NSYP was approved by the South African cabinet in 2003. There were plans that were passed by the cabinet in order to ensure the successful implementation of programmes. For instance, the execution technique anticipated that the introductory rollout would be changed over into administration type activities. The focus was on at least 5 000 youngsters ought to being in service projects by June 2006.

## **2.17 NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY OF 2002**

According to the Department of Housing (1994) cited in Myeni (2005), the White Paper on Housing acknowledges that South Africa has a problem of high level of unemployment rate and it is increasing every year. In response to the ever-growing unemployment challenge, the Department of Housing took a bold stand by pronouncing its commitment in joining forces with other departments for example linking housing projects with other infrastructure projects so that in turn youth will be employed.

At the point when our national Parliament collectively passed the National Youth Policy (NYP) Framework in 2002, the country definitely offered endorsement to the clarion call by the African National Congress President, OR Tambo that "a country that does not deal with its youth has no future and does not deserve one". Cheerfully, government has over the years been occupied with the procedure of expanding upon an arrangement structure as set out in clear and unambiguous terms laid out in the RDP.

A few youth authoritative strategy systems, for example, the National Youth Commission Act, 1996 (Act 19 of 1996), the NYP 2000 and the National Youth Development Policy Framework (NYDPF) 2002/07 were attempted. These administrative procedures abundantly sketched out institutional game plans for youth advancement, a generally new

idea and points of view on how delivery of services for youth was to happen, with their inclusion and significant cooperation. In any case, it must be said that the formative difficulties confronting the youth, particularly for those out of the standard of advancement, cannot be eradicated by a solitary division of government. Similarly as with open strategy forms, though open interviews were attempted by the National Youth Commission in the audit of the NYP 2000 and NYDPF 2002/7 towards the advancement of the NYP 2009-2014 with youth associations (national, commonplace and nearby), government structures, religious developments, research organizations, the work development and common society, including the private sector.

According to the National Youth Commission (1997), as far back as 1994 when South Africa got independence there were already legislation and policies in place for the development of the NYP. The NYP of 2000, despite the fact that it was never embraced, was dependably a controlling approach for the youth sector and it championed the improvement of the NYDPF in the year 2002. The NYDPF secured for five years and finished in the year 2007. It then cleared the way for the need to add to a thorough NYP so as to give guidance to youth-centred intercessions past 2007.

The policy and programmatic interventions that were implemented for young people between 1994 and 2007 formed a strong and sound foundation for the NYP of 2009. There is vast evidence that really proves that considerable progress has been made towards fulfilling the objectives of the different interventions and in an attempt to address the challenges that are faced by young people as the target market, the unfolding process of transformation revealed that even though there is progress but there are still some policy gaps and challenges that remain unresolved. Thus the foundation of National youth strategy of 2009-2014 reacted to identified policy gaps by addressing the difficulties and making new suggestions on new measures, keeping in mind that the end goal was to enhance and quicken the usage, in this way making significant steps in the advancement of young people by guaranteeing their legitimate spot in building a non-racial, non-sexist, prosperous and law-based South Africa (National Youth Commission, 1997).

It is because of the above mentioned reasons that former President Thabo Mbheki, in his State of the Nation Address, took some time to urge all the key stakeholders to collectively with the government intensify efforts in order to integrate youth development into the mainstream of government policies and programmes within the framework of the NYP. Furthermore the inclusion of youth programmes in the government's programme of action was a clear indication of the manner in which the South African government is committed to the development of young people (National Youth Commission, 1997).

The former President Thabo Mbheki added that the NYP was established for the entire South African youth sector, with an aim of closing the identified gaps or challenges, strengthening the already existing measures, recommending new ones, and doing away with those that did not work, improving the quality of services delivered, extending coverage and increasing the impact. The NYP also provides a basis for the policy review on the policy deliverables and the new trends in the field of youth development by reflecting on the role of youth, those who are responsible for the provision of their goods and services as well as some key social support systems. The NYP as a strategic document will as a result offer a number of policy priorities as well as recommendations to pave a way forward in order to turn the general concept of youth development into practice not only to hear about it in speeches and different government documents, thereby making sure that all young men and women get to realise their full potential while at the same time contributing to the overall development of society at large (National Youth Commission, 1997).

## **2.18 PRECEDENT STUDIES**

The Metropolitan Housing Partnership is a United Kingdom (UK) organization that was asked to deliver training to a large UK housing organization, comprising seven different businesses spread across the UK. The organization originated in the belief that people should be at the centre of their project and as a result there was a need to provide training for the people more especially youth about their role in the delivery of housing.

The main aim of this training was to assist the government in its mandate to incorporate youth in the delivery of housing and also in terms of capacitating youth in order to stand a better chance to get employment and it was the aim of the government to incorporate youth in its development plans and strategies in order to try and fight youth unemployment and fight poverty. The training was found to be very fundamental and very instrumental in communicating the vision of the government with the youth in terms of equipping them with necessary skills for them to be able to participate actively in the delivery of housing.

The training also brought together young people in the fight against poverty. The training was a success. For example in the UK a number of young people were absorbed into jobs locally, as they now knew their role in development and it was a blessing in a sense that it promoted sustainability that youth were empowered with skills that they could use even when the project was done, and now people were also given housing consumer education on their role after they had been given houses and how to maintain these houses and also be able to use them as productive assets. This case is a good example all over the world that there is a need to invest in youth through transfer of skills; this does not only empower youth and help in fighting youth unemployment, but it also helps in ensuring sustainability and capacitating youth in making informed decisions in future and the training also assisted youth in making them aware of opportunities of opening their enterprises and being able to create employment opportunities for other young people as well who wish to showcase their skills.

Another good example of youth that was trained in order to participate actively in the development of their societies is found in the Seattle Young People's Project (SYPP). This SYPP is a non-profit youth empowerment organization run by young people. The main aim of the SYPP was to assist youth to speak out and take action on issues that affect them such as unemployment. Unlike many other self-described youth empowerment organizations, in which the priority is to provide organizing or leadership training, in SYPP's model, young people begin by organizing. They seek training and guidance from others in the organization, or from outside volunteers, as these are needed

to move forward on their actions. A young person in SYPP explains that youth are people who are ready to act and who become empowered by taking action.

The community also benefited through the impact that the SYPP had on the public's perception of the role of youth in public society and the relationship between youth and adults. SYPP has created awareness in Seattle that young people are active, politically and socially, on a variety of issues, and that they are a politically powerful voice in the city. Moreover youth who were involved in the SYPP also said that they had gained remarkable self-confidence in acting in ways that they could see had positive and real consequences. Furthermore the SYPP has once again shown that investing in youth through skills transfer and mentorship is the way to go in order to ensure sustainable and responsive housing developments where everyone benefits within the community and even after the project has been completed.

What is most important in the above example is the government investing more in youth training and empowerment as opposed to treating youth as citizens of the future, as a result this training leads to sustainability in terms of livelihood strategies and the training obviously does prepare youth about the dynamic state of issues and how to be flexible in terms of decision-making in order to ensure sustainable and responsive environments for the future. Both examples put more emphasis on youth empowerment not only through participation in developments that affect them and their community, but also on how to have their own enterprises in order not to wait for employment but rather create employment for other young people who wish to showcase their skills in the industry. These examples promote a culture that youth must grow as a collective. Moreover the above examples also encourage youth to do well in order not only to benefit themselves but the community at large.

The infinity project was a huge success, in terms of youth involvement, empowerment and they were able to house many people and they reached their target faster than expected and the project got a lot of support from youth and local authorities.

## **2.19 The youth in housing programme**

The Youth in Housing Programme (YHP) was developed to empower the youth of South Africa and a pilot project was initiated in Ivory Park and it commenced in December 2008. The programme was spearheaded by the national Department of Human Settlements and Commission for Youth Development Agency. The programme was aimed at promoting comprehensive skills such as technical, theoretical and practical skills relevant in the Human Settlements sector industries (DOHS-1, 2009:23).

The programme also served as part of the strategy to alleviate unemployment among the youth while contributing to the effort to eradicate the current backlog of 2,2 million houses for those who cannot afford to provide homes for themselves. The programme also served as a participatory mechanism to promote youth participation in building decent homes for the needy and for those without the necessary qualifications to pursue higher education (DoHS-1, 2009:23).

## **2.20 Conclusion**

Chapter two has explored different theories on the broader notions of youth participation, and also it looked at societal perceptions of youth participation drawing on the experience of youth participation advocates and commentators. This chapter further explored legislative and regulatory democratic participatory systems, and youth development policies in the South African context.

This chapter took a step further and explores the notion of accountability and decentralization of power putting more emphasis on the importance of ward committees as legal units in the eThekweni Municipality in order to promote youth participation. Practical experiences undertaken by eThekweni Municipality to encourage youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing were shared. The chapter concluded by giving two examples where youth participation was a success; it showed their underlying principles that ensured the realization of their objectives and as a result South Africa can learn a lot from other countries but also take into account the context.

In addition the chapter showed the important role that is being played by youth in the delivery of low-cost housing, it showed that youth participation in the delivery of housing

can be an effective process, more especially when the members of the community work well together, and their support is coupled with a very positive attitude and mind-set. This has been investigated in United Kingdom and in Ivory Park.

## **CHAPTER THREE: BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter gives a comprehensive description of uMlazi B and G housing projects. The chapter presents the history and location of the area. This chapter includes also the establishment of the township; the research also covers the process of housing development and social, economic and political issues. The chapter also includes efforts that were made by the government during the housing delivery to ensure that youth does participate in the process and is given opportunities. Maps will be used in order to show

the study area and the map are included the location of the study area within the eThekweni Municipality jurisdiction. Maps have been attached in order to illustrate the location of the study area.

### **3.2 Location and History of the Study Areas**

#### **Project Background and History**

The Umlazi Housing Projects are located some 25 km south of the Durban CBD. Umlazi Township is the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest township in South Africa after Soweto and Tembisa. The projects are located in different sections of Umlazi Township within Wards 77 and 79, of the eThekweni Municipality. The project areas are surrounded by formal existing residential developments with social and economic facilities available in close proximity hence it is a prime residential location and shall be integrated within surrounding developments (<http://www.sahistory.org.za/place/umlazi>, Accessed date: 14/09/15), please refer to map 1, this map represents the location of the study areas and the surrounding areas. Map 2 represents uMlazi B section and Map 3 represents G section.

#### **3.2.2 Background**

The project area is an in-situ upgrading project. There is a high demand for housing within the area because of its location. The housing units at both sections B and G are approximately 40 m<sup>2</sup> and they all comprise of two bedroom, a bathroom and lounge/kitchen area (Umlazi infill project, 2014).

### **3.3 Establishment**

The land belongs to the Department of Human Settlements and was acquired by donation from the State to eThekweni Municipality. There was no charge to beneficiaries of the project for land. The regional Land Claims Commissioner indicated that there were no land claims that were lodged against the properties that were identified for upgrading. The Township was established in terms of the less formal Township Establishment Act 113 of 1991 and beneficiaries will receive title deeds after a period of eight years. All processes, as well as all necessary land audits were undertaken. A town planning layout was prepared and the area was formalized as a formal township.

### **3.4 Facilities and services prior to upgrading**

The Umlazi sections B and G were not developed properly and as a result they had no proper and functioning infrastructure and services. Before the project commenced the area had no tared roads to allow mobility or movement for the informal settlement residents. Previously the informal dwellers made their own roads, but those were not proper roads because they were not properly designed and planned and they were gravel, as a result when it is raining the muddy roads were not easily passable by cars. There was water reticulation. Many residents dependent heavily on communal stand pipes and they are not paying for water it is provided freely by the eThekweni municipality. Both projects were upgrading as a result the eThekweni municipality had already provided most people with electricity, but obviously there were those that just came to the area and those people did not have electricity and they used candles for lighting and paraffin stoves for cooking. Hence this was not safe at all more especially because they had children and in informal settlements fire is easily caused because of the materials that they use to build their shacks. There were few cases of electricity theft from people illegally connecting electricity. Both B and G sections had community halls for community gatherings and they are both centrally located for everyone to have easy access (<http://www.sahistory.org.za/place/umlazi>) accessed date:19/09/2015.

Umlazi as the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest township in South Africa, and with a high population rate had health clinics even though people from other sections had to share because the government did not have resources to build a clinic per section and unfortunately other people had to travel long distances to get to clinic as a result only those that can afford public transport could access these health facilities. Furthermore there were enough schools that were in good condition with all the facilities in order to cater for the ever-increasing population.

The area became more and more overcrowded after it was official that the area will be upgraded, new informal settlements mushroomed within a short space of time and hoping to benefit from the upcoming housing project. The more the area became

overcrowded suddenly the crime rates increased and unhealthy living conditions as people pose a strain in the facilities that are provided by the eThekweni municipality. Umlazi was previously a centre for political battles between IFP and ANC, as a result when the area was selected for the informal settlements upgrading, there were violent attacks IFP refusing to accept the housing project, this is because the IFP supporters did not want to accept a project which was promoted by the ruling party the ANC (<http://www.sahistory.org.za/place/umlazi>) accessed date:19/09/2015.

### **3.5 Housing Development Process**

Umlazi Infill Part 5 was divided into eleven phases, areas within uMlazi Unit B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, K, P, Q, & V for a progressive housing development which included both housing units and bulk infrastructure. The study area was called uMlazi B10 housing project and this project falls within wards 76, 77, 78, 79, 80 and 81 of the eThekweni Municipality. The project was an in-situ upgrading of informal settlements project, the main aim of the B 10 housing project was to eradicate informal settlements in the area and promotes formal housing that is going to improve the living standard of living for the people of uMlazi as one of the goals set by the eThekweni municipality. This project was prioritised by the eThekweni municipality because of its location just next to the south Durban basin and also being the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest township in South Africa with high population.

### **3.6 Socio-economic and political issues**

The study area is populated by African South Africans and as expected the area is dominated by women and youth is the majority, this is because the area is convenient and near employment opportunities especially for youth coming from rural areas for a better life. In the area you find formal housing firstly there are formal houses that were built by the previous government four room houses, and recently there are 42 square meter houses that have been built by the new democratic government through the Breaking New Ground housing policy. Previously when the area was still informal it was faced with many challenges for example ambulances and hearse could not move around the settlements and also it meant people cannot have cars because they had no place to park their cars and also the place was not hygiene people were using their home build pit latrine toilets and there were bad smell. The area was and is still experiencing high rates

of unemployment more especially for youth, this can be justified by their level of education and the high rates of high school dropouts, yes now there are adult schools that assist people that did not get their matric certificate to pass as well as a second chance and these schools are sponsored by the government and the number of people that pass their matric increases because of the commitment by the government to get the best and qualified teachers to teach (uMlazi B10 Progress Report 2012).

Furthermore at the study area there are few sources of employment the first one being Umnyandu new mall which is located at T section at uMlazi and it is easily accessible as it is along the Mangosuthu high way, secondly is it the W shopping complex which is just next to B section and is easily accessible as well and lastly it is uMlazi mega city mall which is located 7 km from the study area. On the other hand it is no secret that many other people's source of income comes from government's social grants for example the child support grant, disability grand and old age grant and lastly other people have been able to use their lo-cost houses that they received from the government as productive asserts, this is because many people have home-based enterprises that they do in order to improve their standard of living (uMlazi B10 Progress Report 2012).

The study area is now led by the African National Congress (ANC) as opposed to the past where there a conflict between the ANC and IFP both want to dominate the area and ever since there are very few political violence instances at uMlazi and those violence stance are at hostels where people are still against change and not accepting change because it is being promoted by the ANC. Moreover the study area now has health facilities and there are also mobile clinics, this is a response by the government to the ever-increasing number of people infected with HIV/AIDS in the area and it is killing youth more.

Furthermore the upgrading of the area has to a certain extend reduced the level of drug abuse like the most dominant ones Wunga, dagga but alcohol abuse is still a major problem and even young girls now have started drinking alcohol which is not good for their future and this can be one of the reasons for the increasing crime scenes in the township but thanks to the nearest police station at V section that operates the entire uMlazi township.

The approaches as mentioned, namely; skills training, empowerment, sufficient provision for education, social and business facilities, flexible land use conditions and development of small and large local economic and emerging enterprises such as block making, building contractors or sub-contractors will all make significant contributions towards optimization of long term social and economic benefits to the beneficiary community.

### **3.7 CONCLUSIONS**

The two projects areas are situated about 25km southwest of Durban CBD within a residential which is already well established; the projects had full youth, the community and local authority support and will be community driven under the auspices of eThekweni Housing; moreover the project areas have good accessibility to employment and other health and social facilities through existing infrastructure, also the project area is very well located within the boundaries of the eThekweni Municipality, existing infrastructure, work opportunities and transportation routes/facilities; due consideration were taken of the affordability levels of the beneficiary community with the proposed development proposals, lastly the development was environmentally compatible and no major impacts have were identified with the housing development and no significant constraints were identified with the geotechnical assessment that adversely affected develop ability of the land.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the results and also interprets the findings obtained from the questionnaire in this study. The study sample was made up of the eThekweni Municipality

human settlements unit officials, the contractor and the youth of uMlazi sections B and G, and the councillors of both sections. The main aim was to get the different perspectives of role-players on youth participation that took place during the delivery of low-cost housing.

## **4.2 Research objectives**

The data was analysed using the themes which were sourced or taken from the study objectives.

## **4.3 Data collected from the youth**

### **4.3.1.1 Age variation**

This section of the study presents the statistics on the demographic information in this study area. The information is presented using tables and graphs.

Table 1 Age variation of respondents

<b>Age</b>	<b>Interval</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
18-25	18	36%
26-31	18	36%
32-35	14	28%
Total	50	100%

The table above shows that out of all the people who responded, 18 (36%) of them were between the ages 18 and 25 years and 18 (36%) of them were between the ages of 26 and 31 years and there were only 14 (28%) respondents who were between the ages 32 and 35 years; this could mean that in the study area there are a large number of youth between the ages 18-31 (72% combined) who are unemployed and currently looking for employment who also participate in developmental activities in their communities.

### **4.3.1.2 Gender representation**

Table 2 Gender representation of respondents

Gender	Intervals	Percentage
Women	20	40%
Men	30	60%
Totals	50	100%

The above table shows that out of all the respondents 20 (40%) were women and 30 (60%) were men. This can be interpreted in two ways, firstly it is possible that there are more men in the study area than women and secondly it could mean that fewer women than men took part in the research even though everyone had an equal chance to take part in the study.

#### 4.3.1.3 Educational level

Table 3 Educational level of respondents

<Matric	7	13%
Matric	15	29%
Certificate	20	38%
Diploma	5	10%
Bachelor's degree	2	4%
Honours	0	0%
Masters	0	0%

This table shows that the majority of young people in uMlazi sections B and G attend tertiary education and get certificates and 29% of youth obtained their matric and did not further their studies. 13% of youth did not get to matric or did not pass their grade twelve class and only 4% of the youth graduated with bachelor's degree and 10% of youth

graduated with diplomas and lastly there were no youth that graduated with honours or master's degrees.

#### 4.3.1.4 Employment level

Table 4 Employment level of respondents

Employment		
Employment	Interval	Percentage
Employed	14	28%
Unemployed	36	72%
Totals	50	100%



Figure 1 Employment level of respondents, Source: Researcher, (2015)

1 represents 72% of unemployed youth

2: represents 28% of employed youth

The table above shows that 14 (28%) of youth that took part in the study are employed and also 36 (72%) of youth in the case study are unemployed. This simply means that

there are employment opportunities in the case study area, but these employment opportunities are not enough to absorb all the young people who are willing and able to work even if there are employment opportunities, most of them are not permanent where they are currently working.

#### **4.4 Opportunities for youth participation during the delivery of low- cost housing.**

The empirical data from young people shows that there are opportunities for youth to take part in the delivery of low-cost housing. However the general view from the youth is that the majority of the opportunities created are for general work, mixing of mortar, delivery of materials like blocks, sand, cement, windows and door frames to the sites using wheelbarrows, and very few opportunities for drivers, this is because the contractor comes with his/her drivers. 50% of youth believe that the team leaders when given the task to hire more people in their respective teams normally hire their friends and relatives and the youth feel it is because of this reason that they did not get the jobs, furthermore the majority of the youth feels that they should be given the opportunity to participate from the planning phases of a project if the government plans to truly develop them.

The project manager felt that there are a sufficient number of opportunities that are available for youth to participate in the delivery of low-cost housing. Young people are urged by the eThekweni Municipality to volunteer in gathering information about the needs of the communities. Young people are also urged to take part in all stages of housing delivery in their respective communities. The project manager believes that young people when given a chance can only improve the housing delivery methods and come up with more cost effective and sustainable ways to deliver low-cost housing.

The contractor also felt that there are a lot of opportunities for young people to participate in the delivery of housing. For the uMlazi B10 housing project a lot of young people were hired and trained while working in order for them to execute their duties correctly and some other young people were empowered and given team leader roles in order to give them leadership skills. These are all the efforts to fight against youth unemployment.

Councillors from both sections uMlazi B and G shared similar views that the delivery of housing in their respective sections has not only created employment opportunities for young people, but also empowered young people with skills that they can use to earn a living even after the housing project has been completed. It is true that the opportunities were not enough to absorb all the unemployed young people in uMlazi sections B and G, but one can only acknowledge the work in progress that the government has done so far.

It is evident that youth, project manager, contractor and councillors agreed that the delivery of low-cost housing in uMlazi sections B and G provided a number of opportunities for young people who were willing and able to participate. It is clear that there were also opportunities for selected young people to be team leaders and the councillors were delighted with the efforts of the government to ensure young people get opportunities and also acknowledge that it is still work in progress, meaning other young will get opportunities in future and get employment.

#### **4.5 Advantages of youth participation in housing**

Young people agreed that youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing does speed up the housing delivery process, but they emphasised the importance of numbers saying that it requires a sufficient number of young people to do the job and produce deliverables. However they highlighted the importance of proper training from the eThekweni Municipality. Young people from uMlazi B section agreed that there was training that was done before and during the course of the B 10 housing project and the training was facilitated by the eThekweni Municipality as part of the municipality's skills development programme. Moreover the training was more about all aspects of the housing delivery steps for example brick laying, waterproofing the roof and all the necessary details like who should be consulted in case there are challenges in the work place.

Moreover the eThekweni Municipality has a skills development unit, this unit is responsible for training youth in all aspects of the work that is done in the delivery of housing; this training is done formally and informally and through workshops in order to equip young participants and make them actively involved in all areas of the project.

According to the project manager that was managing the B 10 housing project; the youth have all the qualities to actively take part in the delivery of housing. Furthermore, young people when they are given training by the eThekweni Municipality have the potential of being very innovative and come up with more cost-efficient and sustainable ways of delivering low-cost housing. The project manager added that there was an improvement in terms of quality of work; this was because of training programmes and workshops that were run by the eThekweni Municipality working hand in hand with the councillors and contractor Zikhulise group senior staff.

The contractor also felt the training programmes and workshops had a positive outcome for both the youth and the eThekweni Municipality; this is because young people who received training were given certificates of attendance and were registered under the National Home Builders' Registration Council (NHBRC) in order to practice and earn a living. The contractor went on to argue that it is very much fundamental to equip young people with all aspects of the delivery of services more especially housing; this transfer of skills helps achieve one of the government's objectives of empowering and developing youth.

The councillors from both uMlazi B and G sections shared the same views with regard to the strengths of youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing. The housing project was a huge relief to the councillors because they knew that young people were the majority and strong ones in their respective sections and they would therefore get employment opportunities from the housing delivery project (B10). The councillors also highlighted the hunger and positive attitude that young people have in their communities as a positive step towards the fight against youth unemployment. Furthermore the councillors also shared that they had formed youth councils that represent young people and they meet twice a month to discuss the problems youth is faced with and propose possible solutions.

Moreover councillors said that they normally encourage the young people not to wait for the government to create or provide employment opportunities but instead the youth must have guts to start businesses and form organisations in order to create jobs themselves

and help other youth, this is because the councillors argued that the opportunities that come with development cannot absorb all the young people.

On the aspect of the strengths of youth participation, one can argue that young people felt that they had a potential to speed up the delivery of low- cost housing, but felt there was a need for contractors to hire more young people in order to do the job correctly. Furthermore young people also acknowledged the role that was played by eThekwini Municipality in training them in order to be skilled. The project manager also felt that young people when they were equipped had the potential to become innovative and improve the ways to deliver housing to be more cost efficient and more sustainable in order to cater for more people with less costs. The councillors acknowledged the work that had been done by the government.

#### **4.6 Efforts by eThekwini Municipality in encouraging youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing**

The questions in this section seek to understand different strategies that were used by the eThekwini Municipality to promote youth participation at a ward or section level.

The eThekwini Municipality official who was a project manager for uMlazi B 10 housing project argued that eThekwini Municipality was obliged by the constitution of the republic of South Africa to involve youth in all development activities, hence in the initial stages of the housing project youth was involved in many ways, for example the appointed town planner for the project had to have a team and that team was made up of young people who were technicians and the professional town planner intervened just to check if the team was doing the work and also offer advice when needed.

The contractor for the B10 housing project also shared similar views to the ones of the eThekwini Municipality project manager also arguing the importance of youth empowerment in the delivery of housing. According to the contractor from Zikhulise group, ward committees and the ward councillors are the closest to the youth; hence when the project was about to commence ward committees and councillor were notified and all stages were explained clearly and also it was encouraged that youth be the majority of

the staff as enforced by the Municipal Systems Act of 2000. The contractor agreed that there was still a long way to go in order to ensure that youth is encouraged to take part in service delivery.

Young people expressed different views with regard to the efforts of the eThekweni Municipality in encouraging young people to participate in the delivery of low-cost housing. Some other young people felt that the eThekweni Municipality had not done enough in encouraging the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing in uMlazi. Furthermore other young people in the study felt that the eThekweni Municipality had done a reasonable amount to encourage youth participation in the delivery of housing. Young people shared a common view that there was a need for the contractor to pay them a living wage in order for them to improve their standard of living because they felt R1600 a fortnight was not enough, they want to be paid nothing less than R2000.

On the other hand 50% of youth argued that there was a good communication between the officials, councillor and the youth. According to these young people all meetings were advertised in local newspapers and there were public meetings where all community development issues were discussed so that it was clear the message was always communicated to the youth.

The above information taken from the respondents makes it very clear that eThekweni Municipality obeys chapter 4 of the Municipal Systems Act of 2000, which enforces that all municipalities must have a plan as to how to involve youth in developmental activities.

#### **4.7 Challenges which are associated with youth participation in housing delivery**

According to the eThekweni Municipality project manager, there are a number of challenges that are associated with the participation of youth in the delivery of housing, the project manager said that the biggest challenge was the fact that young people were not prepared to do anything without getting paid. Hence the project manager felt it was because of the high unemployment rate that young people do not want to volunteer in the delivery of housing; youth want to be compensated for the efforts they put in the delivery of housing.

In saying this, the project manager was not of the view that youth should not be compensated, but rather felt that youth does gain much needed experience by taking part in the service delivery and stands a better chance to get employment in the near future when they have experience and that youth should be grateful and grab that opportunity with both hands. Furthermore the project manager said that all the municipality officials always explain to the youth if the work that the young people are going to do is voluntary so that it is clear from the start to avoid unnecessary expectations in terms of incentives at the end of the job.

Also when the project started over 50% of the youth wanted to benefit and get their own housing as well, but unfortunately most of them did not qualify for the housing subsidy because they were still minors and uMlazi B10 project was not a greenfield project hence it was more of *in-situ* upgrading; hence the eThekweni Municipality only budgeted for a limited number of houses to build because of financial constraints. Moreover young people said that one of their challenges was that the team leaders who were given power to hire people hired their friends and their relatives and other people did not get the job.

The contractor from Zikhulise group felt that the youth in uMlazi both sections B and G did not want to go to school and they were now relying on the government for free housing; for example some youngsters were proud to say that they were born and bred in uMlazi and they had been staying in the informal settlements for over 25 years and they had been promised jobs and housing by the government and hence they blame the government for failing to meet their needs and yet they were not doing anything about their lives; they were waiting for the government to provide for all their needs. Furthermore the majority of youth was involved in politics and they were very vocal and they hoped one day they would lead and get top positions in government institutions even if they did not qualify, that is done through deployment by the ruling party.



**Figure: 2 Youth building houses**

Source: (Researcher, 2015)

The photo above shows young people in uMlazi G section taking part in the delivery of low-cost housing in their community. In the photo young people are reinforcing the foundation of a 42 square meter house.



**Figure: 3 some of the low-cost houses at uMlazi B section**

Source: Google images, (2015)

The youth of uMlazi B section is shown taking part in the delivery of low-cost housing in their respective communities. One can easily see that indeed youth participation does speed up the housing delivery process, but there is a need for a sufficient number of skilled employees to ensure that the job is completed on time to avoid delays.

The study findings revealed that the South African government has taken the role of facilitator and allowed the citizens to be the main drivers of the service delivery; the government has also gone a step further in ensuring that citizens more especially young people get training as a way of skills transfer to ensure that they actively participate in the delivery of human settlements. One can say that the enabling approach and skills transfer has been proven right by the study and the study found that over the years the enabling approach has yielded positive outcomes.

## **4.8 Conclusion**

The analysis of the research findings has shown many different outcomes, where the respondents shared different thoughts, agreed and disagreed with different topics or themes of the research questions. Other respondents also agreed and some disagreed with the information that was shared by the researcher.

The study has revealed that eThekweni Municipality has done a reasonable amount of work to adhere to the stipulations of the chapter 4 and 5 of the Municipal Systems Act of 2000. The study also showed that the eThekweni Municipality also complies with the national youth commission's guidelines for youth participation in local government. The eThekweni Municipality working hand in hand with the councilors established youth committee forums as a tool to encourage youth participation in the delivery of services. The study revealed that the eThekweni Municipality skills development unit is working closely with youth committees to ensure the transfer of skills to the youth. The skills and development unit has shown the understanding of youth participation guidelines and has worked well with the youth and is still finding innovative ways to improve their services.

## **CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

Chapter 5 concludes the research by summarising all the findings, and also proposes recommendations in order to encourage and promote the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing.

The main aim of the study was to assess the level of participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing, and also to evaluate the extent to which the South African government ensured the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing and the extent to which youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing helps reduce youth unemployment.

This study also examined the measures and strategies that were used by eThekweni Municipality to encourage and promote youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing. The study went on to look at phases where youth participated in the delivery of low-cost housing in uMlazi sections B and G. The study also investigated the level of participation and the extent of youth participation in the delivery of housing in uMlazi.

### **5.2 On the question of whether or not there are opportunities for youth participation during the delivery of low-cost housing.**

- The study found that there are opportunities for young people to participate in the delivery of low-cost housing. However, young people felt that the majority of the opportunities were for general labour. Moreover, the study revealed that there was a high level of nepotism by the team leaders.
- The study also found that young people were hired and also trained not only to ensure that they executed their duties well, but also as an empowerment tool for them to earn a living even after the housing project had been accomplished. Training would also allow young people to be more innovative and come up with more cost efficient and more sustainable ways for delivery of low-cost human settlements.

- The study also found that the opportunities for youth to participate in the delivery of low-cost housing were not enough to absorb all the unemployed youth of uMlazi sections B and G but the councilors acknowledged the role that had been played by the government in creating opportunities for young people.

### **5.3 Advantages of youth participation in housing**

- The study found that young people had the potential to speed up the delivery of low-cost housing; hence there was a need for the contractors to hire more young people and use less machinery. The study also revealed that young people were excited about the training that they received from the eThekwini Municipality skills development unit.
- The study revealed that the training programmes and workshops had a positive outcome for both the youth and the eThekwini Municipality; this was because young people who received training were given certificates of attendance and were registered under the National Home Builders' Registration Council (NHBRC) in order to practice and earn a living.
- The study also revealed that young people were the majority of the population of uMlazi and the councillors felt that young people were very strong to be able to work in the delivery of low-cost housing because some duties such as mixing mortar, bricklaying and plastering require physical strength as they are labour intensive.

### **5.4 Efforts by eThekwini Municipality to encourage youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing**

- The study found that the eThekwini Municipality is obliged by the constitution of the republic of South Africa to involve youth in all development activities. On the other hand the study also revealed that young people shared different views, some agreed that eThekwini Municipality had done well in promoting youth participation, some young people felt that eThekwini Municipality had not done enough because they were not aware of training that took place in their communities.

- The study also found that young people shared a common view that there was a need for the contractor to pay them a living wage in order for them to improve their standard of living because they felt R1600 a fortnight was not enough, they wanted to be paid nothing less than R2000 a fortnight.
- The study also revealed that there was good communication between the officials, councillors and the youth. Also the study showed that young people felt that all meetings were advertised in local newspapers and there were public meetings where all community development issues were discussed therefore it was clear the message was always communicated to the youth.
- The study found that eThekweni Municipality obeys chapter 4 of the Municipal Systems Act of 2000, which enforces that all municipalities had a plan as to how to involve youth in the developmental activities, if all municipalities abided by this Act; chapter 5 calls for all municipality planning to be development-oriented in order to build responsible citizens of the future.

### **5.5 Challenges which are associated with youth participation in housing delivery**

- The study found that some young people worked without being compensated, but at the same time young people gained experience when they volunteered, but young people were not willing to work without getting paid. Hence all officials had the responsibility from the beginning of the work to explain to youth if there was no budget to pay them so that it was their choice to volunteer.
- Concerning the challenges of youth participation, the study found that over 50% of the youth wanted to benefit and get their own housing as well, but unfortunately most of them did not qualify for the housing subsidy because they were still minors. Also the study found that young people were frustrated that the team leaders that

were given power in order to hire people hired their friends and their relatives and other people did not get the job.

- The study also found that the youth in uMlazi both sections B and G did not want to go to school and they were now relying on the government for free housing, and these young people blamed the government for failing to meet their needs as they said that they were promised jobs by the government but they were still unemployed.
- Furthermore the study revealed that the majority of young people in uMlazi were involved in politics and they were very vocal and they hoped one day they would lead and get top positions in government institutions even if they did not qualify, that is done through deployment by the ruling party.

## **5.6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations are informed by the outcome of the research conducted at uMlazi sections B and G:

### **5.6.1 Recommendations to the eThekweni Municipality**

- The study found that some of the young people at uMlazi were not aware of the training and hence they did not attend the workshops. The study recommends that eThekweni Municipality skills development unit should ensure that youth development is advertised and ensure that all young people were aware of such initiatives so that the youth can take part and be empowered about their role in the delivery of housing in their respective communities (Khuzwayo, 2011).

The training programme when conducted properly could boost self-esteem among the youth who have the responsibility to make informed decisions about the delivery of housing in the near future and youth also have the capacity to be

innovative and come up with more sustainable and cost-effective ways to deliver housing (Khuzwayo, 2011).

- The study also recommends that the government, private sector and civil society should launch effective communication campaigns to inform young people at uMlazi on the opportunities for youth development and participation and also strive to increase the uptake of youth in existing youth development programmes (National Youth Policy, 2009).

### **5.6.2 Recommendations on policy**

- The study recommends that the South African government should review the current preferential policies to include youth as a specific target for employment and also encourage employment agencies in other sectors outside the built environment to implement this provision (National Youth Policy, 2009).
- There is a need for the government officials to ensure the correct implementation of youth participation policies to ensure that the policies achieve the intended outcomes (Williams, 2006).

### **5.6.3 Recommendations to the youth**

- The study found that the needs of the youth were not discussed in the youth forums, and therefore the study recommends that there is a need to constantly monitor the performance of the local ward youth development forums in order to ensure that they are always effective and sustainable (Khuzwayo, 2011).
- The Youth Development Forum ought to strengthen relations with the private sector to enlarge and strengthen the social networks for youngsters. Also the government in partnership with the private sector should facilitate

institutionalization of this structure to ensure continuity (National Youth Policy, 2009).

#### **5.6.4 Recommendations to the councillors**

- The study found that most young people did not want to go to school instead they were more politically involved and depended on the government for housing and employment. Therefore the study recommends that the councillors should put more emphasis on the importance of education not that the youth should stop being politically active (Khuzwayo, 2011).
- According to the African Youth Charter, it is critical to prepare youth in disciplines where opportunities are available and accessible. The South African Youth Policy (2009-2014, pg. 21) further emphasizes the need to make training accessible to all young people including unskilled youth in order to ensure the improvement in the number of participants.

#### **5.6 Conclusion**

The study conducted in eThekweni Municipality at uMlazi sections B and G specifically focused on assessing the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing. The study also looked at the youth development policies and regulatory frameworks, the framework derived from the national youth commission's youth development guidelines for all local governments, followed by the Department of Provincial Local Government (DPLG) framework as well for participation of youth in the local government structures.

The South African government established the above-mentioned policies in accordance with the declaration that was made internationally by the United Nations Charter General Assembly on youth participation, and also the African charter. South African government has an obligation to comply with international policies with regard to youth participation, hence the establishment of policies and announcing laws that will ensure the inclusion of youth in all government departments and in the delivery of low-cost housing.

The youth development guidelines and frameworks that guide the participation of youth play an integral role in promoting and encouraging participation of youth in the eThekweni Municipality. The study revealed that it is clear that there are municipalities that comply with youth development guidelines on youth participation and they are growing.

To conclude, this study acknowledged the role that has been played by the government in ensuring the involvement of youth in service delivery; the study also calls for more commitment from the side of local government and political will especially on eThekweni Municipality to continue ensuring the increase in the number of young people who take part in the delivery of housing. eThekweni Municipality has shown their commitment in youth development through the establishment of a skills development unit which is tasked with budgeting, coordinating and ensuring the implementation of youth development programmes.

It is believed that this study will play a fundamental role in helping eThekweni Municipality improve its strategies to encourage youth participation in all development agendas of the local government, and the lessons learnt can also be shared with other municipalities so that they can learn to encourage youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing.

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## ANNEXURES 1: QUESTIONNAIRE

### Youth of uMlazi sections B and G

1. Age 

18 - 25
26 - 31

 group

32 - 35
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2. Gender

Male	Female
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2. Highest Education

Matric	
Certificate	
Diploma	
Bachelor's Degree	
Honours	
Masters	

3. EMPLOYMENT

Employed	Unemployed
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4 Are there enough opportunities for youth to participate in the delivery of low-cost housing?

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5 Did you participate in the delivery of low-cost housing in B and G? during design phase, implementation, construction.

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6 How can participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing be used as a tool for empowerment?

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7 Can youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing speed up the process of housing delivery? How?

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8 How can the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing be improved?

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9 According to your view what is the importance of youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing?

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10 What are the challenges faced by youth in the area with regard to employment opportunities?

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11 Where are other young people working besides in the delivery of low-cost housing?

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12 How have you benefited from participating in the delivery of housing? Can you recommend that other young people participate?

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## **ANNEXURES 2: INTERVIEW WITH THE WARD COUNCILORS OF UMLAZI SECTION B AND G REPRESENTATIVES**

1. What is your role as a Ward Councilor in uMlazi G or B section in the delivery of low cost housing?
2. How are you as a Councilor dealing with the problems on youth unemployment?
3. How is cooperation between you and the municipality officials in dealing with youth unemployment especially in housing delivery?
4. What has the Councilor done to improve youth involvement in the delivery of low-cost housing?
5. What are the programmes that are in your ward which are aimed at dealing with youth unemployment?
6. What was the situation like before the housing delivery project took off?
7. What is it that the youth have due to the project which they did not have before?

### **ANNEXURES 3: Interviews with the Project Manager**

1. What is your role in eThekweni Municipality in the delivery of low cost housing in uMlazi?
2. What is the eThekweni Municipality's plan in improving the participation of youth in the delivering of low cost housing?
3. What measures have been put in place by eThekweni Municipality to ensure the participation of youth, youth development in the delivery of low-cost housing?
4. What lessons can be drawn from the participation of youth in the upgrading of uMlazi section B and G?
5. What significant role did the youth play in the implementation of the project?
6. Did you consider the needs of the youth during project packaging?
7. What challenges did you encounter when consulting the youth?
8. Were there training programmes offered to the youth?

Yes

No

- 8.1 If yes, what training programmes were provided for the youth explain?
- 8.2 If training programmes were provided to the youth, in what ways did the youth benefit from the training programmes?
  
- 8.3 Who undertook the training programme?
  
9. Was youth participation considered at project initiation phase?
  
10. Was youth participation considered at implementation phase?
  
11. Was there a special programme which ensured youth participation in uMlazi B and G? Explain

**ANNEXURES 4: Contractors**

1. What is your role in the delivery of low-cost housing in uMlazi B and G sections?

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2. What strategies were used in order to encourage and promote the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing in uMlazi sections B and G?

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3. What is the importance of youth involvement in the delivery of low-cost housing? And what was their role in the delivery?

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4. How many youth have you employed in your company now? Are you planning to employ more in the near future?

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5. What are the lessons learnt from involving the youth in the delivery of low-cost housing at uMlazi sections B and G?

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6. What challenges were encountered with youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing?

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7. How has the delivery of housing changed young people's lives as compared to when you started the project?

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## ANNEXURES 5: INFORMED CONSENT FORM

**Project Title:** Assessing the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing projects. A case study of Umlazi sections B and G housing project.

**Specific Location:** The study will be done at UMLazi and this township is under the eThekweni Municipality, UMLazi is the biggest township in KwaZulu-Natal and the third biggest in South Africa after Soweto and Tembisa, and it was established in 1967. It is situated approximately 25kms from Durban city centre, with a total population of 1.2 million (Riess et al, 2011). UMLazi like all other Townships is experiencing major private and public developments for example shopping malls, primary and secondary schools, libraries community centres and there are already existing institutions like Mangosuthu University of Technology. UMLazi consists of 26 sections but for the purpose of the study only section B and G will be assessed these are the oldest informal settlements in uMlazi.

My name is Xolani Phohlo (student number 210523225). I am registered Masters Candidate at the University of kwaZulu Natal. My research theme is entitled “assessing the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing projects. A case study of Umlazi sections B and G housing project”. You are being asked to take part in this research project. I will explain the project to you in detail. You should feel free to ask questions at any time. All potential interviewees are being asked to volunteer for participation in the research study.

My contact details are:

Email- [xphohlo@gmail.com](mailto:xphohlo@gmail.com)

Cell- 074 635 3392

The contact details of my supervisor are:

Email- [myeniv@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:myeniv@ukzn.ac.za)

Cell- 072 497 9334

Specific Enquiries (HSSREC Research Office contact details):

Ms Phumelele Ximba

Tel: (031) 260 3587

Email- ximbap@ukzn.ac.za

**Description of the project:**

The primary objectives of this study is to to assess the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing, examine implementation guidelines specifically for youth participation in low-cost housing delivery projects, review literature on the participation of youth in the delivery of low-cost housing, to emphasize the strengths of youth participation in the delivery of low-coast housing, to emphasize youth participation as a tool to speed up low-cost housing delivery, and also to investigate challenges which are associated with youth participation in housing delivery at uMlazi sections B and G.

The core research questions are:

1. To what extent is the youth involved in the delivery of low- cost housing?
2. What are the implementation guidelines of youth participation in the delivery of Low-Cost housing?
3. Are there any policies regarding youth participation in the delivery of low-cost housing?
4. What role did the youth play in the delivery of low-cost housing in section B and G in uMlazi?
5. How can youth participation be used as a tool to speed up low-cost housing delivery?
6. What are the challenges which are associated with youth participation in the delivery of housing?

**Procedures:**Interviews:

- Will take place once you have been contacted, informed of the parameters of the research, have read over the informed consent form, and have signed the consent form.
- Interviews will be conducted and responses documented (interviews may be recorded)
- The time required will depend on the nature and depth of your responses
- Participants may be contacted again to elaborate on a response or for clarity

**Risks or discomfort:**

There are no potential risks or discomforts that will be associated with the research process.

**Benefits of this study:**

There will be no direct benefit to you for taking part in this study. The benefits of the research will contribute towards an existing body of knowledge.

**Compensation:**

There is no form of compensation for you.

**Voluntary participation and withdrawal:**

Participation in research is voluntary. You have the right to refuse to be in this study. If you decide to be in the study and change your mind, you have the right to drop out at any time. You may skip questions whatever you decide, you will not be disadvantaged in any manner.

Questions, Rights and Complaints:

If you have any questions about this research project or any concerns about your rights as a research participant in this study, please feel free to contact me (see contact information at the beginning of the document).

Confidentiality:

As the primary focus of the research is to document opinion on, and perspectives and opinions of the participation of youth in the delivery of housing, there is no need for confidentiality unless you (the interviewee) request such anonymity (see below). The research is of public interest and most of the themes are in the public domain.

Consent statement:

Do you give your consent for: *(please tick one of the options below)*

Your name, position and organization, or

Your position and organization, or

Your organization or type of organization *(please specify)*, or

None of the above

To be used in the report?

I..... (Full names of participant) hereby confirm that I understand the contents of this document and the nature of the research project, and I consent to participating in the research project. I understand that I am at liberty to withdraw from the project at any time, should I so desire.

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT

DATE

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Please write your email address below if you wish to receive a copy of the final research report: